

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OECD P 12558 241110Z

17

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

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INFO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OECD, EGEN (VAN LENNEP, EMILE)

SUBJECT: PROCEDURE FOR RE-ELECTING SECRETARY-GENERAL

REF: OECD 11176

1. AT MEETING MAY 22 OF HEADS OF DELEGATIONS, PRESIDED BY AMBASSADOR VALERY (FRANCE), CHAIRMAN SUMMARIZED STATE OF PLAY REGARDING REELECTION OF SEC GEN AS FOLLOWS. MOST MEMBER COUNTRIES SUPPORT REELECTION OF EMILE VAN LENNEP FOR SECOND TERM COMMENCING END OF SEPTEMBER; NO DEL HAS YET EXPRESSED OPPOSITION TO HIM; SOME DELEGATES WISH ELECTION TO BE VOTED BY PERMANENT COUNCIL RATHER THAN BY MINISTERIAL COUNCIL.

2. AFTER SHORT DISCUSSION, WHICH AVOIDED WALKING ON VARIOUS EGGS, HEADS OF DELEGATIONS AGREED TO CONCLUSIONS FORMULATED BY VALERY AS "GENTLEMEN'S AGREEMENT":

(1) THAT DECISION TO RE-APPOINT VAN LENNEP WILL BE TAKEN JUNE 6TH AT COUNCIL MEETING TO BE PRESIDED BY VALERY.

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PAGE 02 OECD P 12558 241110Z

(2) THAT NO NEW POINTS OR CONDITIONS WOULD BE ATTACHED

IN THE INTERVAL TO COMPLICATE MATTERS.

3. COMMENT. SINCE "GENTLEMEN'S AGREEMENT"
ACCEPTED, I DO NOT EXPECT QUESTION OF RE-ELECTION TO BE
DISCUSSED IN ANY ORGANIZED FASHION NEXT WEEK, EITHER IN
FORMAL SESSIONS OR OTHERWISE. THERE MAY BE SOME COMMENTS
IN CORRIDORS. SEVERAL DELEGATION HEADS NOW HAVE RATHER
BELATED MISGIVINGS ABOUT FACT THAT A SECOND FIVE-YEAR
TERM MIGHT PROVE TOO LONG A SPAN TO LEAVE VAN LENNEP IN
OFFICE. HOWEVER, GIVEN THE TERM FIXED IN OECD CON-
VENTION, IT SEEMS VERY DOUBTFUL THAT ANY EFFECTIVE MOVE
WOULD BE LAUNCHED AT THIS DATE TO NEGOTIATE SPECIAL
SHORTER ARRANGEMENT.
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